

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the April Issue of OUR TOWN

This month we are excited to announce that we will be producing weekly e-newsletters in April leading up to Town Meeting on May 1st. These newsletters will provide you with information about Town Meeting; what to expect, what will be voted on and why it's important to join your fellow residents to vote on how your taxes are spent and how your town is run.

Read on in this newsletter for behind the scenes preparation for Town Meeting, Board of Selectmen updates, Spring walks, egg hunts, march madness, Spring clean up and many more items of Town news.

**If you are part of a Town board/
committee/commission and would like
to submit content for the May issue,**

**please contact
Ruth Townsend.**



SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER



[Click Here To Sign Up](#)

(click on 1 Dover Town News under bottom section - News Flash)

VOL. 2, NO.4, APRIL 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEET THE TEAM

**POLICE
BOARD OF HEALTH
PLANNING BOARD**

SCHOOLS

PARKS AND RECREATION

LIBRARY

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
OPEN SPACE**

RECYCLING

**DOVER HISTORY
COA**

**SAVE THE DATE
QUICK LINKS**

Board of Selectmen



Town Meeting

Monday May 1st

7pm at Mudge Auditorium
DS Regional School



Behind the Scenes...

A small working group* has been meeting since January to ensure that residents have the opportunity to be fully informed about the more significant Warrant Articles that will be presented at this year's Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday May 1st.

Communications

A Warrant Article Sponsor's meeting was held to review roles and responsibilities, meeting protocols and provide a Q & A opportunity for all.

Warrant Article Sponsor's Responsibilities

- The working group reiterated their strong recommendation for sponsors to communicate broadly with residents using communication tools such as the Town's website, social media, and email.
- Frequent outreach which summarizes and explains the warrant article, the reason for it and the benefits of the article will go a long way to ensuring a successful, efficient Town Meeting.

The Warrant Committee held their Open Hearing on March 13.

At the Hearing, sponsors of the various articles summarized their proposals and residents had the opportunity to comment on these and ask questions in advance of Town Meeting. A financial overview of the operating and capital budget was provided at the hearing and has since been updated with more current information.

The Warrant Committee's evaluation of the articles will be posted on the Town Meeting webpage before Town Meeting and also mailed to all households ("the Blue Book"). Click [here](#) for the Town Meeting webpage.

Town Meeting e-newsletters will be sent out throughout April sharing more information on Town Meeting and what will be voted on.

*Jim Repetti, Town Moderator
Dave Haviland, Assistant Town Moderator
Felicia Hoffman, Town Clerk
Bob Springett, Board of Selectmen

Barry Goldman, Capital Budget Committee
Carol Lisbon, Planning Board
Carl Valente, Interim Town Administrator



**Watch out for SPECIAL weekly e-newsletters
providing you with all you need to know about Town Meeting!
Look for them in your inbox starting this week!**



Board of Selectmen

**In
Brief**



Dover Community Center - Subcontractor bids were due by March 29 and the General Contractor bids are due by April 19. Once these are received, they will be assessed by the Caryl Building Committee, leading to a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen of the lowest bid qualified contractor.

BOS Membership Size - The Committee held its second meeting on March 15 and discussed the types of information they might need to make an informed judgment on membership size. They also discussed options for a consultant and what qualities should be considered when selecting "like towns" for comparison purposes. Their goal is to have a good foundation of knowledge about how Dover works to facilitate the assessment/comparison of data expected to be gathered.

Town Administrator search - Applications were due March 29, with a meeting to review them planned for April 3. A screening committee has been appointed to assist in the recruitment of this role:

Valerie Lin, Planning Board

Felicia Hoffman, Town Clerk

Dawn Fattore, Business Administrator, School Department

Melissa Herman, Chair, Warrant Committee

David Haviland, Assistant Town Moderator

Dickson Smith, Resident

Robyn Hunter, Chair, Board of Selectmen

Meet the Team

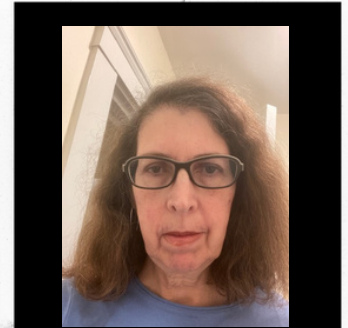
This week we meet two more of the interim team supporting the Town...

Laura Harbottle, Interim Town Planner

Laura has worked as a planner for several towns on the Cape, Scituate and most recently Wellesley before coming to Dover. As a planner, Laura enjoys working on projects that support positive change for a community, whether it's helping to draft zoning bylaws, or locating grants or funding for projects that meet a local need.

As part of her role she makes recommendations to Planning Boards on ways to identify, and hopefully reduce, the impact of development on traffic, natural resources and local services.

Ask me about...
Town Bylaws,
Development in your
neighbourhood, and
Planning Board Projects



Laura

headshot of woman with glasses

Ask me about...

Employment
opportunities in
Town departments

Rick Reed, Interim Asst. Town Administrator/HR Director

Rick comes to Dover as a retired Town Manager having served in the Town of Bedford for 30 years until retiring in 2018. He also worked with the City of Gaithersburg, MD City Manager's Office for about 12 years before coming to Massachusetts.

His role is to assist the Town with human resources related work in an interim capacity, particularly with recruitment for vacant staff positions. Rick has been providing professional staff support to the Personnel Board and assisting department heads and other staff with personnel matters.



Rick

headshot of man in blue shirt

Police



Police Sergeant sat at desk with computer keyboard

Meet our newest Sergeant, Charles Marscher

Sergeant Marscher joined the department in 2009 as a part-time officer, and was promoted to a full time officer in 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Westfield State University, and is working towards his Masters in Psychology from William James College. He is the department's Firearms Instructor and armorer, 911 Coordinator, Medical Liaison and Field Training Officer.



Board of Health

Well Regulations

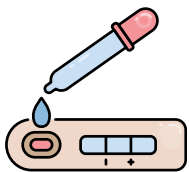
As a reminder, please make sure to check out our Well regulations prior to the purchase or sale of an existing home in town. A water quality test should be performed on any existing wells and the results should be reported to the Health office. Please refer to the BOH page on the town website for information on how to find a state certified laboratory to use. Click [here](#) to go straight to the page.



Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.



Planning Board

Planning Board Public Hearing - Monday April 3 at 7pm

The Planning Board invites you to attend its Public Hearing to discuss their two Warrant Articles to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting. The Zoning Bylaw amendments involve necessary changes to the Floodplain District Bylaw (Article 18) and recommended changes to the Accessory Apartment Bylaw (Article 19). For more information on both articles click [here](#).

The Hearing will be held on Monday, April 3 at 7pm in the Great Hall at the Dover Town House.

Chickering



Different children's book covers in March madness table

March Madness is in full swing at Chickering! They built a bracket of eight "new to Chickering" books and teachers recorded themselves reading these books. The students will then vote over the course of six weeks to select the best book. Thanks to the generous funding of PTO, Chickering will be able to buy a copy of the winning book for each classroom.

Teachers and students continue to grow their reading and writing skills as they dive into non-fiction at most grade levels this time of year. First graders are researching animals, fourth graders are researching extreme weather and natural disasters, and fifth graders are researching events leading up to the Revolutionary War. [Chickering Newsletters](#) are posted here.

High School Athletics

SPRING SPORTS HAVE STARTED!
CLICK [HERE](#)
FOR TEAM LISTS AND FIXTURES,
COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR TEAMS!



Parks and Recreation

WELCOME SPRING!

FREE
annual

Egg Hunt & Crafts Event

for Dover Resident Families
presented by



SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023
DOVER TOWN COMMON

FOR EVENT DETAILS VISIT:
DOVERMA.GOV/538/SPRING-EVENTS

Free and open to all
residents,
no registration
required

Click [here](#) to
register
for these
great
opportunities
(Limited
Availability)

colored eggs



Ninja Warrior is Back!

TUESDAYS, MAY 2 - MAY 30, 2023
ON THE DOVER LIBRARY LAWN

PRE-K 3, 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS 2:00 - 2:50pm
KINDERGARTEN - 3rd GRADE 3:00 - 4:00pm

\$110 / PARTICIPANT / 5-WEEK SESSION



YOUR VOICE: PUBLIC SPEAKING MADE FUN!

Public speaking can feel like a scary task, but it doesn't have to be! **YOUR VOICE** is a fun and engaging class, designed to help elementary-aged students acquire public speaking and presentation skills while having a blast with a fun and unique curriculum! Each Right Brain Curriculum instructor will coach you in using your loud voice, how to scan an audience, tricks for making eye contact and making persuasive arguments – all in ways that will grow your confidence as a speaker.

THURSDAYS, 4/6 - 5/18/2023
4:00 - 5:30PM
\$140 / PARTICIPANT



children on climbing frames with trees in background

A SHORT HISTORY OF UFOs

ROSWELL, AREA 51, NEW ENGLAND
SIGHTINGS AND BEYOND

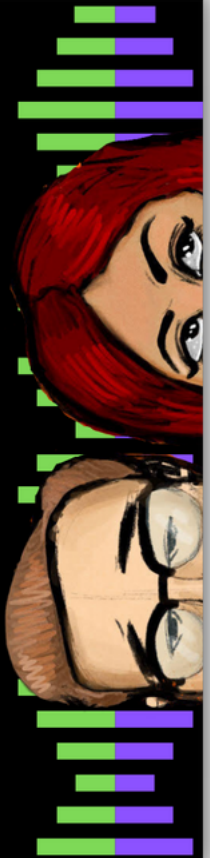
HOSTED BY THE



PODCAST

APRIL 13TH @ 6:30PM VIA DOVER TOWN LIBRARY

FOR MORE ABOUT AIN'T IT SCARY, VISIT AINTITSCARY.COM



Walpole CFCE and the
Dover Town Library presents

BIG RYAN'S TALL TALES



April 20, 2023
11:00 AM

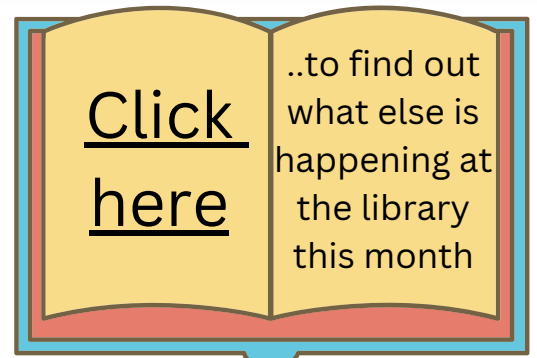
Dover Town Library

56 Dedham Street
Dover, MA 02030

Storyteller Big Ryan will share original stories,
puppet play, a bit of music and movement and
a whole lot of fun!

Recommended for children ages 3 to 8

This event is sponsored by the Walpole CFCE Program which is funded through the
Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Department of Early Education and Care.



Click
here

..to find out
what else is
happening at
the library
this month



News
letter



Join the Dover Town Library
mailing list by scanning the
QR code or by visiting the
Library's website

Friends of the Dover Library



Please join the Friends of the Dover Library at Cheers for Books Thursday, May 11 at the Dover Legion for an evening of fun and friendship in celebration of our wonderful library. There will be amazing raffle items, exciting music, a cash bar, and lots of good cheer.

The event will run from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Coach Pete and his counselors will be available at the library to watch kids ages 4 and up. Pizza will be provided.

Tickets are \$25, and \$5 per child for the Coach Pete program, thanks to the generous support of the Dover Mothers Association. All funds raised will be donated to the Dover Town Library.

Please visit the [Friends of Dover Library](#) website for tickets.

Open Spaces

Registration
Required
[Click here](#)

April's Guided Walk

Join the Open Space Committee (OSC) for a guided walk on Saturday April 8 at 10.30am. The walk will take you through The Trustees Powisset Farm's hay fields into Hale's woodlands to enjoy the views from Nimrod Rock! Come learn more about Hale and their conservation project with Dover & Westwood. Visit the Powisset Farm Store (9 am - 4 pm) before or after the stroll!



forest with sky in background and rock in foreground

The walk will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven slippery rocks, short steeper pitches and wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Sorry, NO dogs - Powisset is a working farm with animals. Walk will take place in misty rain to shine. Meeting & parking information will be e-mailed to registrants on Friday April 7.



Recycling Committee

April is Spring Clean-up Month for Dover's streets and parks.

The Dover Recycling Committee, in conjunction with the Highway Department, is planning the annual Dover Clean-Up for the entire month of April. This community event promotes street and property clean up.

In 2022, 400 town residents participated in this effort. This year's goal is to once again have 100% of the 159 streets and many parks cleaned up. All Dover residents are invited to help achieve this goal by signing up for a street that is important to you. All local clubs and organizations are encouraged to join in the cleanup. Help with a section of our main through streets where roadside trash is greatest and consider checking it all year round.

The condition of most bottles and cans makes them unacceptable at recycling centers so it is not necessary to separate trash from recyclables. The Recycling Committee will supply bags and arrange for street safety signs to be posted.

Registration is easy, Click [here](#).

This event is supported by Dover's Parks & Recreation Commission.

Dover Encourages Participation in Food Waste Diversion

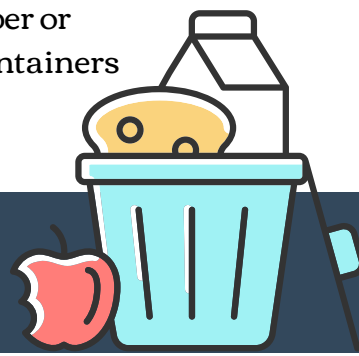
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection estimates that food waste accounts for more than 25 percent of the waste stream after recycling. Food waste should be separated from trash to keep it from being incinerated or clogging landfills, both of which produce harmful chemicals and contribute to air pollution. Diversion of food waste enhances the operation and increases the longevity of all septic systems.

What is Dover doing about it? Dover's Transfer Station collects food waste which is then transported to an anaerobic digester for conversion to biogas, a renewable energy source. This program benefits the environment by turning waste into a resource. In 2022, the town collected 1000 tons of trash at the Transfer Station but only 30 tons of food waste, a decrease from previous years.

What can you do? Separate your food waste from trash and dispose of it in the large barrels located next to the compost area at the Transfer Station. This includes bones, shells, corn cobs, tea bags, coffee grounds, and all meats, eggs, and fish. Items that are NOT acceptable are recyclables, cooking oil, yard waste, boxes, cups and cartons. All food must be bagged. You can use any type of bag - plastic, paper or compostable. The use of compostable bags is recommended. Kitchen countertop containers are available for purchase at the Town Garage.



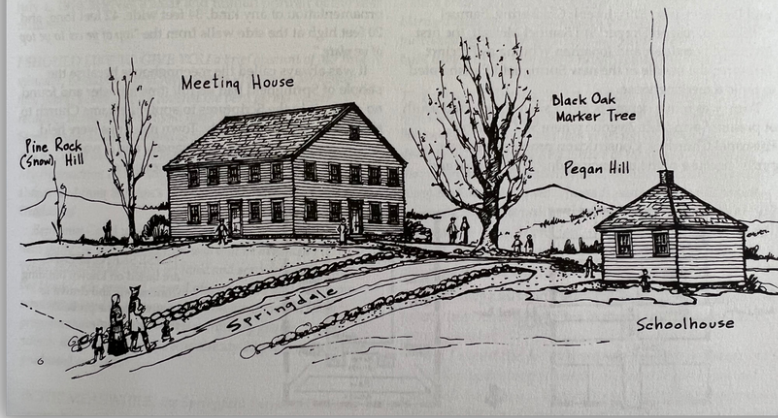
**DID YOU KNOW FOOD
WASTE IS ONE OF THE
HEAVIEST
COMPONENTS OF
YOUR WEEKLY TRASH?**



Dover History

The First Meeting House

as it looked c. 1764



Drawing of two buildings in 1764

Drawing and information from 'Dover Days Gone By', by Richard Hart Vara (Dover Historical Society)

Town Meetings

Town Meetings have been run in this country for over 300 years and still continue today. In 1754 the Town Meeting was held in Dover's first Meeting House on Meeting House Hill (where St Dunstan's Episcopal Church is now). The Meeting House was a gathering place for many public occasions including Town Meetings and religious observances. In 1810 this building burned to the ground and a second Meeting House was built to replace it across the street on the site where The Dover Church is now. This year our Town Meeting will take place on Monday May 1 at 7pm at Mudge Auditorium at the Dover Sherborn Regional School.

COA



Click [here](#) to sign up for the COA newsletter

Opportunities to come together and learn...

COA Talk with the Town: Town Administrator

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00am, in the Great Hall at the Dover Town House: Meet with Interim Town Administrator Carl Valente to review articles on the Town Warrant for the May Town Meeting and hear updates on Town projects. Coffee and light refreshments provided.

Lifetime Learning Classes

Join the Dover COA for one or more Lifetime Learning classes, sponsored by the Friends of the Dover COA. To sign up, email coa@doverma.gov. Cost: \$10/session or \$25 for series.

A Look Back in Time:

The James Webb Space Telescope

Monday, May 1 at 10:30am, Dover Town Library

Presented by David S. Ball

Return to the Moon, Forward to Mars

Monday, April 24 at 10:30am, Dover Town

Library

Presented by David S. Ball

NASA Solar System Ambassador Series

For full course descriptions, click [here](#) and look at page 4 of the March/April COA Newsletter.

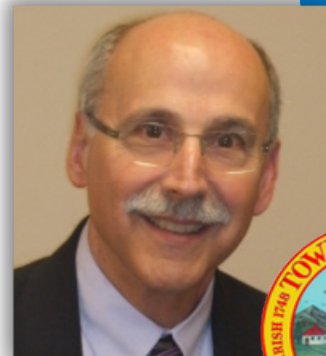
Hidden Figures: Women of NASA

Monday, May 8 at 10:30am,

Dover Town Library

Presented by Pat Monteith

headshot of man in suit



Carl Valente



Save the Date



Town Meeting

Monday, May 1st

7pm at Mudge Auditorium
DS High School

Click here for a list
of the upcoming
Committee
meetings.

Watch for *SPECIAL*
weekly newsletters
bringing you all the
information you need on
Town Meeting!
Starting this week!

**SPECIAL TOWN
MEETING**
to vote on the future of the
Community Center Project
Saturday June 3rd - 10am
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

April Quick Links



Learn more about Town Meeting.

LEARN MORE



Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to
learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction
Enforcement Bylaw Policy.

LEARN MORE



See the dates for upcoming meetings and agendas for the Board of Selectmen
and Town Committees.

LEARN MORE



**Want to contribute to May's newsletter?
Please submit content to Ruth by April 18.**

Click below to stay updated on Town news

